(d) whether it is also a fact that even after clearing Geelani of any charges by the concerned department in the Army, the police withdraw the case against Geelani from the court after a long time; and

(e) if so, the details regarding the delay and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) to (c) During a search and seizure operation at the residence of Iftikar Geelani on 9.6.2002, Income Tax Department recovered a print out from the computer of Shri Geelani containing deployment of Indian Army and Para Military Forces in J&K. The information was considered prejudicial to the safety and security of the country and therefore, Syed Iftikar Geelani was arrested by Delhi Police under the Official Secrets Act, 1923.

(d) and (e) Government after considering the mattter and after consultation with all concerned including Ministry of Law allowed the withdrawal of the case on administrative grounds and in public interest. There was no delay in this regard.

National Identity Card

2234. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 798 given in the Rajya Sabha on 26th February, 2003 and state:

(a) whether any consultation has taken place with the States in this regard to the issue of NIC;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions; and

(c) how many States have accepted the proposal for issuing multipurpose National Identity Card?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal to issue Multi-purpose National Identity Cards to the Indian citizens was discussed in the Chief Secretaries and Chief Ministers Conference held on 7th January, 2003 and 8th February, 2003 respectively. All the States welcomes the initiative of the Central Government for introduction of Multi-purpose National Identity Card scheme

and agreed to put in place all the necessary infrastructure and mechanism in their States for speedy implementation of the Scheme.

Naxalite activities

2235. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the activities of naxalites have increased manifold in selected States in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the sources of funding to naxalites have been assessed by Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the details of properties damaged and persons killed/injured by naxalites during the last six months; and

(e) the details of assistance provided by Union Government to such affected States during that period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) The number of violent incidents perpetrated by LWE outfits increased to 1465 in 2002 as against 1208 in 2001;

(b) and (c) The naxalites are reportedly extorting money from the contractors engaged in various activities including construction and marketing of forest produce and Government servants/ professionals etc.

(d) During the last six months (September 2002 to February, 2003), naxalite oufits have killed 271 persons and caused injuries to 192 persons.

(e) The Central Government has provided financial assistance for modernization of the States Police Forces and also deployed CPMFs as per the needs of the LWE affected States. Besides Rs. 96.70 crores was reimbursed to LWE affected States under SRE till 31.12.2002.

Apprehending parking attendants

2236. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: